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VIA E-mail: tratestimony@cga.ct.gov

Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: H.B. No. 5366 (Raised) An Act Concerning Revisions to the Motor Vehicle
Statutes (TRA)

Committee Members,

I am writing this letter in support of H.B. No. 5366 referenced above.

As you can imagine, the loss of driving privileges due to impaired vision can have devastating lifestyle consequences on an individual, including loss of independence and inability to accomplish even the most simple and basic daily living tasks. Fortunately, with the advances in technology this can in many cases be avoided.

Bioptic lenses are designed to enable the user to see further forward than with their normal vision and the view is adjusted to meet the individual's needs. The bioptic lenses are fit by a professional based on the patient's visual acuity, visual field, and other important individual factors.

One can certainly argue that if an individual can wear eyeglasses to pass a vision test and drive legally, then a visually impaired person should be legally permitted to drive utilizing bioptics. It is important to note that currently, there are only five states in the United States that prohibit the use of bioptics while driving (Iowa, Utah, Maine, Washington D.C. and Connecticut).

I urge the Committee members to educate themselves on the advances and use of bioptics, including that which provides for increased safety conditions due to improved vision, and also consider the significant lifestyle consequences that the failure to pass this Bill would have on many State of Connecticut residents.

Thank you,



Betty Gabriel

BG/hs